

CONNECTED COAST ANNUAL REPORT FOR SKEGNESS

2023-2024



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WELCOME

2024 saw a significant milestone for the Towns Fund investment in Skegness with the start of work on the new Skegness Learning Campus. We call the campus an economic game changer because that's exactly what it will be, providing new and diverse skills and development opportunities that will benefit both learners and businesses.

Work has also got underway in the last year on Cultural Skegness which will see the Embassy Theatre transformed, creating new spaces and ways for people to engage with arts, culture, and entertainment all year round.

We have also been able to watch as work has progressed in the town centre, with buildings benefitting from external improvements that are changing the appearance of properties. Meanwhile, the work at Tower Gardens has improved the experience for all who use this well-loved park.

We have also played a key role in supporting development at the Foreshore, where a new Travelodge and Starbucks are under construction.

There is more to come. It has been confirmed that Skegness will receive further investment from the government and in summer 2024, we carried out consultation to shape ideas for how this funding can be spent. There will be many more opportunities for people to get involved in 2025.

The Towns Fund, together with the other funding that is being invested in Skegness now, and still to come, is helping to create a new future that realises the town's potential. I look forward to continuing to see the story of change unfold for Skegness.



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Baron'.

**Chris Baron,
Chair, Connected Coast**

THE CASE FOR INVESTMENT

In 2021, it was announced that Skegness would receive £24.5M in government funding through the Towns Fund. The aim of the programme was to regenerate towns and support long-term economic growth.

Skegness was one of the towns chosen for the funding because of local challenges around skills, employment and income. Poor health was also identified as an issue, and the seasonal nature of many of the activities in Skegness. There was a clear case for investment to increase opportunities for local people across a number of themes.

The evidence of these challenges was backed up by consultation and engagement which was carried out to understand people's views and concerns.

With this understanding, and in line with the criteria set out for the funding, the Connected Coast board worked together to create a Town Investment Plan that would tackle the challenges and bring transformational improvements to Skegness. This plan was the starting point for the projects which are now being delivered today for the town.

THE CASE FOR INVESTMENT* AT A GLANCE

3 in 10 people are over 65

Tourism related jobs are **4x** national average

4 million visitors are coming into Skegness every year

*From the Skegness Town Investment Plan, 30 October 2020

OUR AMBITION FOR SKEGNESS

Connected Coast Board is working together with partners towards a shared and ambitious vision for Skegness. We want to build on the town's strengths and address its challenges so Skegness can realise its potential. With an overall focus on **improving skills**, the work that is being carried out now is supporting a **learning, enterprising, connected, healthy, and resilient Skegness**.

We want Skegness to thrive now, and into the future, for all who live, visit, work, and spend time in the town.



THE OPPORTUNITY FOR SKEGNESS



"I am hugely impressed with the efforts and ambition of so many to create new opportunities for Skegness alongside significant regeneration. Together we can succeed and overcome the inevitable challenges along the way."

Richard Tice, MP for Boston and Skegness



"The last 12 months have marked another year of significant progress for Skegness with the ongoing delivery of projects that provide new opportunities for our residents and businesses."

"Work is underway on Cultural Skegness, a programme of transformation for the Embassy Theatre and surrounding area, that will create new cultural experiences for local people right on their doorstep, all year round. This scheme is important for the town and the wider National Portfolio Organisation programme, through Arts Council England Funding, will enhance the Embassy Theatre further as a focal point for the delivery of culture and art."

"Work is well underway for the new Skegness Learning Campus, a facility which will grow a local skills talent to support businesses in job creation and expansion."

"Towns Fund Investment has also supported the development on the Foreshore, bringing Travelodge and Starbucks to the town, adding to the overall visitor offer and creating year-round jobs."

"Investment through the Towns Fund is important for growing the local economy in a transformational and sustainable way to ensure the benefits are long lasting for years to come."

"I very much look forward to seeing these schemes progressed even more in 2025 to enhance the lives of local people who live and work here."

Cllr Craig Leyland, Leader, East Lindsey District Council

A CONNECTED COAST

Like Mablethorpe, Skegness is also benefitting from Towns Fund investment with £23.9M awarded to the town in 2021.

Although there are different projects in Skegness and Mablethorpe that are meeting the needs of each area, there are links between the activities in both towns. Ultimately, all the investment and projects will have a wide impact along the coastline.

Due to the clear links between the areas, Connected Coast has taken a joined-up approach for Skegness and Mablethorpe. This means that the board works together to develop, deliver, and oversee the projects in both areas, making sure that they connect with each other. In this way, the board can identify any shared opportunities that will help Skegness and Mablethorpe to thrive as part of a connected coast.



THE INVESTMENT

Project Name	Towns Fund Grant Allocation	Match Funding	Total Fund
Skegness Foreshore	£1,980,000	£9,369,000	£11,349,000
Culture House	£1,336,500	£80,000	£1,416,500
TEC Campus	£13,860,000	£2,546,000	£16,406,000
High Street Transformation	£2,702,700	£484,934	£3,187,634
Skegness Station	£2,871,000	£200,000	£3,071,000
Police Training Academy	£990,000	£1,121,000	£2,111,000
Multi User Path	£514,800	£918,514	£1,433,314
Towns Fund grant award allocation and match funding gives a total investment in the Town Deal projects of £38,974,448			

PROGRESS TO DATE

December 2023
Land purchase for Skegness Learning Campus completes



May 2024
Improvements complete at Tower Gardens



March 2024
Community Planting Day at Tower Gardens



July 2024
Start of construction of Skegness Learning Campus



September 2024

Planning permission for improvements to the Embassy Theatre as part of Cultural Skegness



October 2024

Planning permission granted for works to Alford Manor House



September 2024

Work begins on site at the Embassy Theatre



August 2024

Major work completes at Alisons department store



SKEGNESS LEARNING CAMPUS

Work on the new Skegness Learning Campus, our flagship Towns Fund project for Skegness, is progressing well after construction began on site in April 2024.

The state-of-the-art campus is set to be an economic game changer for the area and will offer a wide variety of education courses to meet the needs of Skegness and its surrounding communities.

The campus, supported by £14M Towns Fund investment, will offer learning in key areas such as construction, engineering, hospitality, tourism, and digital skills training, amongst others.

The new bright and modern campus will provide flexible learning space and is expected to open for the start for the 2025/26 academic year.



DELIVERING FOR SKEGNESS



I am thrilled that construction is underway on our new Skegness Learning Campus. It is exciting to witness our designs and plans come to fruition. The new learning campus will introduce a broad curriculum and fresh opportunities for the community of Skegness.

Adrian Clarke, Group Vice Principal for Corporate Services at the TEC Partnership



SKEGNESS LEARNING CAMPUS

Helping people and businesses to grow and thrive in Skegness

“The Skegness Learning Campus provides us with a unique opportunity to offer new and more opportunities for people locally to access the skills and knowledge they need for the work they want to do. The courses that will be on offer will focus on the vocational learning that we know is in demand in the area, and the training that we will provide will be suitable for young people starting out, or learners established in their careers who are looking to upskill.

“The opportunities that we will offer will be absolutely crucial in helping people in Skegness to grow and thrive . But, we will also be able to play a key role in helping businesses to develop their staff, and in doing so, achieve their business goals.

“Our campus is set to have a huge impact within the community, and for the local economy and we can't wait to welcome our first students in.”

Morag Moore, Campus Director, Skegness TEC



Artist impression of the new Skegness Learning Campus

DELIVERING FOR SKEGNESS

AT A GLANCE

- Located on Wainfleet Road, Skegness;
- Supported by £14M Towns Fund investment;
- Offering vocational courses to meet the needs of local people and businesses;
- Work began on site in April 2024;
- The two storey building will offer flexible learning space;
- Expected to be open for students in September 2025.



SKEGNESS LEARNING CAMPUS

State of the art space

The new campus will offer state of the art, flexible learning space across two floors. The development will offer classrooms, meeting space, and communal space.



SKEGNESS INTERCHANGE

Skegness Railway Station is set to offer a better experience and more community facilities in 2025 when work on the extensive renovation finishes.

The improvements include repair and refurbishment of current buildings as well as the construction of new facilities. The work over the last year has seen a complete refurbishment of the derelict building on the front of the station to create a new waiting area, ticket office, retail units and facilities for staff.

Outside new lighting and CCTV have been fitted on the concourse and platforms. The planned new retail units are being marketed to potential tenants. A new operator for the community café and meeting space is also set to be announced in 2025.

It is expected that works will complete in spring 2025, allowing local people and visitors alike to benefit from the new and improved facilities.



DELIVERING FOR SKEGNESS



This is such an exciting and significant project for EMR and myself. To be able to make such a difference for our passengers and the local community by providing better and more accessible facilities for everyone.

Paul Boswell, Principal Project Manager, East Midlands Railway



SKEGNESS INTERCHANGE

Improved facilities for all

“The work at Skegness Railway Station is set to transform what we are able to offer here, including with a new community café. We look forward to announcing the operator for this in 2025.

“We are also pleased that we will be able to provide a modern meeting room for hire, and new retail units will also be available. We have had significant interest in these from potential businesses.

“Crucially, our new look station will offer a Changing Places toilet to meet the needs of our customers and community.

“With 230,000 passenger journeys to Skegness annually, and with the opportunity for more use by local people, the new Skegness Railway Station will offer better facilities for everyone.”

**Lauren Fülep, Assistant Project Manager,
East Midlands Railway**

DELIVERING FOR SKEGNESS

*Artist impression of the
new community café at
Skegness Railway Station*



AT A GLANCE

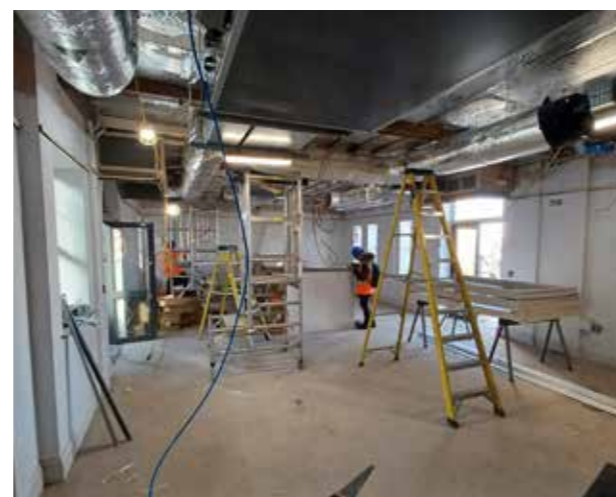
- Extensive refurbishment including repairs to existing station building and construction of new facilities;
- Work will see a new community café, retail units, meeting room, and new toilets including a Changing Places toilet;
- £2.9M Towns Fund investment with overall investment in the works totalling £3.3M;
- Work expected to complete in spring 2025, resulting in a new station experience and opportunities for use for all.



SKEGNESS INTERCHANGE

Engaging the community

East Midlands Railway's Community Team is working with local schools to arrange learning visits with the first visit taking place in December 2024. Pupils and students from the area will be welcomed to the station and have the opportunity to tour the site.



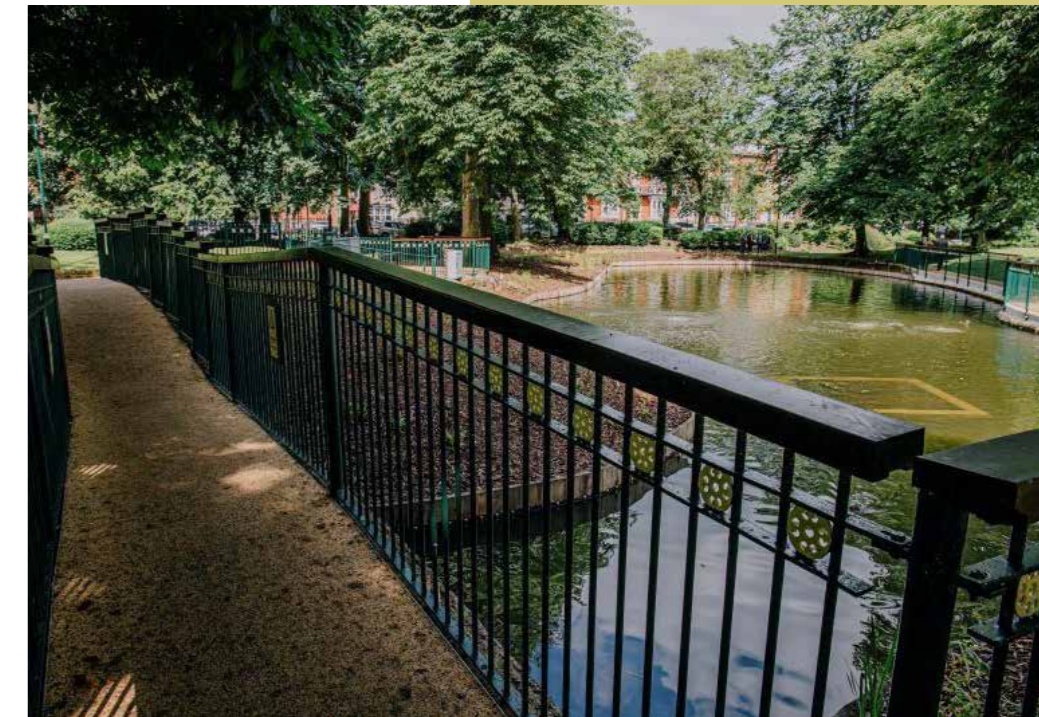
TOWN CENTRE TRANSFORMATION

The Town Centre Transformation programme is bringing improvements to Skegness' streets, helping to restore historic buildings and improve their appearance.

Grant funds are being made available to property owners who want to restore historic features to their buildings and make external improvements that add to their appeal. In 2024, the appearance of Alisons department store, a staple of Lumley Road, was one such building that was transformed with support from the scheme.

The programme is also making improvements to public spaces and 2024 saw the completion of work at Tower Gardens. The plans for the popular park were shaped with the public and include a sensory garden amongst the improvements. The project was led by Skegness Town Council and Heritage Lincolnshire.

There is still an opportunity for building owners in the town centre to access the Town Centre Transformation grants, email towndeals@heritagelincolnshire.org



DELIVERING FOR SKEGNESS



The Town Centre Transformation project has helped us to make a bigger impression on the high street, reflecting the quality products and service we offer in store. Customers have commented on how the new appearance has lifted the building and added to their shopping experience.

Javed Mohammad, Owner of Alisons



TOWN CENTRE TRANSFORMATION

Transforming one of Skegness' best-known shops

"Alisons is one of Skegness' best-known shops, and located on busy Lumley Road, it is a familiar sight for people coming into the town centre.

"Now, thanks to investment from Alisons Ltd. and a substantial grant through the Town Centre Transformation project, the exterior of the department store has been significantly improved.

"The sympathetic revamp that has been carried out has seen the shop's historic features restored. This includes bringing back into use previously blocked timber windows on the upper floor, and reintroducing traditional shopfronts on Lumley Road, Lumley Square, and High Street.

"In addition, new signage and internal shutters have also been installed, with further improvements planned, including the fitting of new entrances, and the installation of traditional retractable canopies.

"It is fantastic to see the difference the programme is making right in the heart of Skegness town centre."

Isabelle Macpherson, Heritage Project Manager, Heritage Lincolnshire



Before . . .

. . . and after



DELIVERING FOR SKEGNESS

AT A GLANCE

- Grants are supporting town centre buildings to benefit from external improvements;
- Work is also taking place to improve public spaces in the town centre;
- Grants are still available and can be accessed by emailing towndeals@heritagelincolnshire.org
- £2.7M Towns Fund investment in this programme of works;
- The work to buildings and public spaces are improving the town centre experience for all in Skegness.



TOWN CENTRE TRANSFORMATION

Community planting day

A community planting day at Tower Gardens took place in March 2024 providing an opportunity for local people to get involved in creating the improvements to the park. The day, which saw lots of people attend, also gave the community the chance to see for themselves the work that had taken place. The event was organised by Skegness Town Council with support from Heritage Lincolnshire.



CULTURAL SKEGNESS

Work on Cultural Skegness, an East Lindsey District Council led project for the transformation of the historic Embassy Theatre in Skegness began in September 2024.

The project, which is funded by the Towns Fund and the Arts Council, will see the popular venue expanded and improved to create improved, modern, and accessible facilities that will provide residents and visitors with a bigger and better offer of activities and shows to enjoy.

The redesign is based on the Scandinavian culture house model becoming an open space where people can do many different things and be inspired by different ideas, all year round.

The work, which will include upgrades to the auditorium seating, a new feature entrance, and new external seating, is expected to complete in spring 2025.



DELIVERING FOR SKEGNESS



This project will help to allow residents and holidaymakers alike access to the highest quality of performances, workshops and more. It will also provide a valuable platform for new creative businesses to develop and grow in East Lindsey, creating exciting new jobs and adding diversity to our existing cultural offer.

Councillor Steve Kirk, East Lindsey Council Champion for Cultural Skegness ”

CULTURAL SKEGNESS

More to enjoy for all

“The Embassy Theatre has been a mainstay of Skegness for almost a century and this investment will mean it will continue to be a popular destination for all for years to come.

“The ambitious work that is now underway will mean we can bring so much more to Skegness for people to enjoy. With improved facilities, we can look forward to increased and diverse performances, shows, events, and activities to meet a whole range of different interests.

“Throughout the year, there will be many more opportunities for people to come through our doors and spend time here. This could be meeting people, trying a new activity, or experiencing the varied entertainment that will be on offer.

“This project will make a big impact in Skegness, giving people more reasons to enjoy Skegness, whatever the season.”

Brendan Bugg, Marketing and Sales Manager, Embassy Theatre



DELIVERING FOR SKEGNESS

SKEGNESS FORESHORE

The redevelopment of Skegness Foreshore, a key site in the town, is a priority for East Lindsey District Council and the Connected Coast board. There is huge opportunity to invest and transform this area, benefitting local residents, visitors to the town, and the local economy.

In 2024, investment was made to facilitate and support the redevelopment of part of the Foreshore by The Burney Group. Without this funding, this area would continue to be vacant.

With match funding in the site from the developers at over £9M, the investment in this part of the Foreshore is expected to bring additional spend in the local economy estimated at around £3.5M in the coming years. In addition, 30 new jobs are expected to be created through the redevelopment.



DELIVERING FOR SKEGNESS



“The Skegness Foreshore offers an exciting investment opportunity to support the local tourism economy and create jobs for local people. The Towns Fund has led to private-sector investment, with the national chain, Travelodge choosing to develop a hotel as well as a new Starbucks facility, creating employment that will be all year round.

“This will bring additional holiday makers and short-break visitors to this fantastic resort - visitors who will each help grow the local economy by supporting the town's attractions, restaurants and local facilities. Skegness is very much open for investment and I look forward to seeing how the opportunities the Foreshore presents will help grow the town's offer as a holiday destination, as well as supporting local businesses and local people with work.”

Councillor Steve Kirk, Portfolio Holder for Coastal Economy



“The redevelopment of this site will be transformational for the town, and it is already providing a catalyst for additional investor interest in other vacant areas of the Foreshore.”

Chris Baron, Chair, Connected Coast Board



ARTHUR TROOP TRAINING AND CONFERENCE CENTRE

The Arthur Troop Training and Conference Centre is helping to recruit and develop more police officers across the east coast.

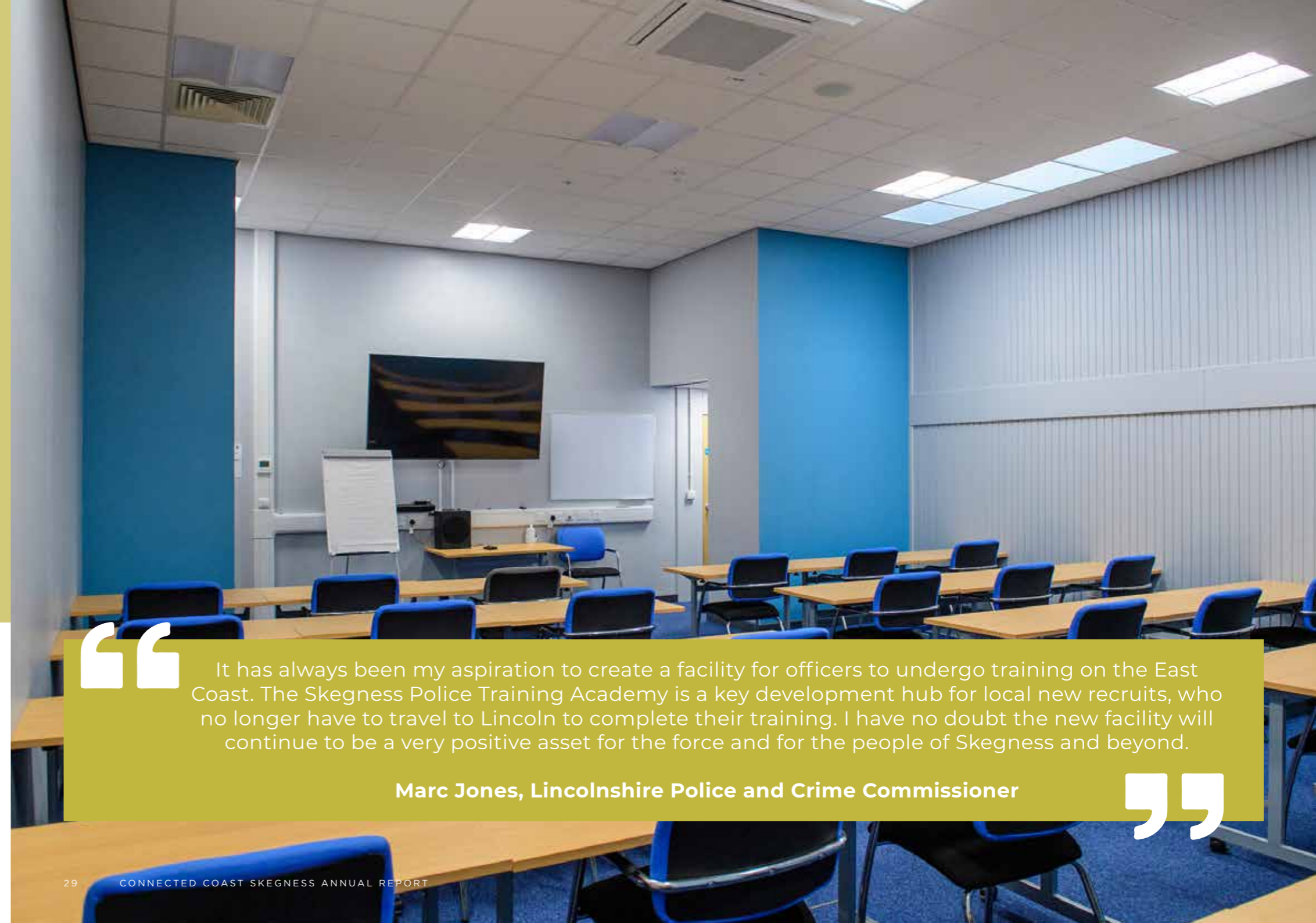
It also offers a facility for the community, with the conference and meeting space available for hire for a range of events.

The centre is based in the former magistrates' court and is one of the first projects that benefited from the Towns Fund in Skegness, receiving £1M, with a further £1.1M in match funding from Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Probation supporting the project.

The Arthur Troop Training and Conference Centre was officially opened in 2021 by HRH The Princess Royal Princess Anne, the Patron of The International Police Association.



DELIVERING FOR SKEGNESS



It has always been my aspiration to create a facility for officers to undergo training on the East Coast. The Skegness Police Training Academy is a key development hub for local new recruits, who no longer have to travel to Lincoln to complete their training. I have no doubt the new facility will continue to be a very positive asset for the force and for the people of Skegness and beyond.

Marc Jones, Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner



AT A GLANCE

- Supporting the recruitment and development of police officers from the East Coast;
- Offers meeting and conference facilities for hire by the community;
- Opened in 2021 by HRH The Princess Royal Princess Anne, the Patron of The International Police Association;
- £1M Towns Fund investment with £2.1M overall investment in the centre.



ARTHUR TROOP TRAINING AND CONFERENCE CENTRE

Facilities for the East Coast

The academy offers flexible, modern space with classrooms, break out areas, and a gym.

Learning offered on the site includes development opportunities for new recruits, as well as training for officers in subjects such as Personal Safety Training, Domestic Abuse Matters, and First Aid.

Rooms are also available for hire by the community, contact lisa.peck@lincs.police.uk to find out more.



MULTI-USER TRAIL

The Multi-User Trail is a Towns Fund completed project which makes it easier for people to walk and cycle along a route next to the A52.

The one-mile path between Chapel St Leonards and Ingoldmells connects to other footpaths to form a four-mile circular route leading to the beach and promenade.

The trail, which has been created by Hardy's Farm, received £0.5M in Towns Fund investment. It opened for use in 2023 and is proving popular with walkers and cyclists alike who make use of the safe route it offers.



DELIVERING FOR SKEGNESS



The multi-user trail offers people who want to travel between Chapel St Leonards and Ingoldmells a safe route. It also encourages active travel and allows people to enjoy our Lincolnshire countryside on foot or by bike. It is great to see the trail being used by so many people.

Stuart Hardy, Hardy's Farm



AT A GLANCE

- A one mile route between Chapel St Leonards and Ingoldmells;
- Joins up with other paths to create a circular route;
- Allows for safe travel on a route next to the A52;
- Opened in 2023 and supported by £0.5M in Towns Fund investment.



FURTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR SKEGNESS

In 2023, it was announced that Skegness would receive £20M in Long Term Plan for Towns Funding, and in the October 2024 budget, the government confirmed that the funding will be retained and reformed into a new regeneration programme.

This funding, which will begin supporting projects from 2026, offers another fantastic opportunity to deliver further improvements for Skegness, building on the exciting work that is already taking place. Some early funding is expected in 2025 as work takes place on getting ready for projects to start the following year.

In 2025, as more details about the funding become available, there will be opportunities for local people to get involved in shaping how this investment can be spent in the town. This engagement will build on the consultation that took place in summer 2024 to help to create a long-term plan for Skegness.



We are continuing the conversations we have begun with the public, and as we find out more about the funding, we will keep local people informed and involved so that together we can ensure that this investment meets the needs of Skegness

Paul McCoey, Chair, Skegness Sub-Group



CREATING A PLAN TO INVEST IN SKEGNESS

FURTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR SKEGNESS

In summer 2024, we carried out consultation to understand people's views and ideas for Skegness. The consultation took place to shape how the long term plan for towns funding will be spent in the town.

161 people had their say in a survey, and people also shared their ideas via feedback boards in key town centre locations. Engagement with young people took place including a YMCA session for under 18s, and students at King Edward VI school in Spilsby had their say during a special feedback session. We found out:

- People think the best thing about Skegness is the beach
- People want a better town experience
- There is a strong desire for a cleaner, tidier and smarter Skegness (streets, buildings, public spaces)
- People would like to be able to enjoy Skegness safely and securely
- People would like more things to do for residents and local visitors.

We are continuing to speak to people and share their views; if you would like to be kept informed on opportunities to have your say please email us connected.coast@e-lindsey.gov.uk



CREATING A PLAN TO INVEST IN SKEGNESS

DELIVERING FOR OUR CONNECTED COAST

UK Shared Prosperity Funding is making a difference in East Lindsey.

Through the grants schemes created by the funding, thousands of pounds have been awarded to benefit the local community. The funding has supported:

- Events and activities;
- Volunteering;
- Community facilities;
- Tourism, culture, and heritage;
- Local businesses;
- People and skills.

In East Lindsey, £6.14million of this new funding was made available to invest and empower local communities to make a real difference, enable local decision making and better target the specific priorities of places.

The programme will continue to be able to support projects and initiatives in East Lindsey in the coming year after it was announced that the funding has been extended by the government for another year.



Top: Dance Free silent disco at Sandilands and above: balsam bashing at Horncastle



“Lincolnshire Coast Light Railway (LCLR) was awarded a £24,250 grant from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to build a new station and interpretation centre at its southern terminus in Skegness. Progress is being made every single day – and it’s hoped the project will be finished by the end of 2024. The UKSPF grant has already raised awareness over a much wider area of the reasons for visiting the coastal area and the adjacent inland district. This has already resulted in new volunteers joining the railway’s Historic Vehicles Trust and an increased awareness of the historical significance of the LCLR. Clearly, this is already having a beneficial effect, not only on the public and the coast’s wider economy, but also on the morale of the dedicated volunteers. This has highlighted the importance of investing in heritage and cultural attractions and places of interest – such as the LCLR – to support the district’s wider economy.

Chris Bates, Lincolnshire Coast Light Railway



DELIVERING FOR OUR CONNECTED COAST

UK Shared Prosperity Funding is making a difference in South and East Lincolnshire.

- 154 organisations have received grants
- 178 local events or community activities, including Dance Free by the Sea (activity) and Skegness Light Parade (event)
- 1,602 volunteering opportunities delivered as of Sept 2024. We have delivered an army of volunteers, delivering long-term, impactful change of their local communities. This includes Lincolnshire Community and Volunteer Service (LCVS) Community Care Catalyst project
- 87 community facilities created or renovated
- 32 tourism, culture or heritage asset creations or improvements – including Lincolnshire Coast Light Railway’s Sunset Station and East Mercia Rivers Trust’s Horncastle River Enhancement project
- 61,601 visitors to the area (SELCP) and its attractions.

People & Skills.

- 743 residents are currently on or have completed courses funded through UKSPF. The programme is likely to deliver at least a further 750 places by March 2025.
- This includes 111 residents trained to become software developers and in digital/AI.
- 570 residents who are currently not in work will be supported into part-time or full time roles through UKSPF.

Business support

- Grants4Growth/Advice4Growth and the wider Supporting Local Business Theme has offered grants and technical growth advice to 653 business, mainly through our dedicated business and specialist advisors.
- By the end of the UKSPF programme, 9% of the local business growth would have received technical growth advice or a grant from UKSPF [Kada Research, 2024].

UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUNDING

DELIVERING FOR OUR CONNECTED COAST

Skegness based Skyline Training is one of many businesses which have applied for funding from Grants4Growth.

The UK Shared Prosperity Funded programme, which is distributed by the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership, awarded more than £2,000 to the business which enabled the purchase of equipment and enrolment in training to further the services on offer to clients.



The new Lincolnshire Wolds bus, unveiled by Victoria Atkins, MP for Louth and Horncastle, and Cllr Richard Fry, with Saul Farrell, UKSPF Manager

DELIVERING FOR SKEGNESS

DELIVERING FOR OUR CONNECTED COAST

Significant progress has been made over the last year on East Lindsey's culture and heritage programme which will see the sensitive transformation of much-loved historic sites. A major milestone was realised in the £8M government funded programme when planning permission was granted in October 2024 for the Alford Manor House.

In addition, East Lindsey District Council has ensured Government money stays invested in Alford after it had to pause its regeneration scheme for the site of Alford Windmill. Councillors voted to support the reallocation of Government money to Alford Manor House, ensuring the funds remain in the town to benefit the community. The project remains ready to go should the owners of the windmill, Lincolnshire County Council, be in a position to renovate it in the future.

Meanwhile, work at Spilsby Sessions House is moving forward with inspection of the ceiling and roof void, and bat surveys taking place. The understanding gained from this work will shape the delivery of the renovation. Once complete, new uses will be created for each attraction, generating greater footfall into the town all year round, supporting the local economy, and safeguarding these heritage assets for future generations.



Artist impressions of the improvements to Alford Manor House (top) and Spilsby Sessions House

CULTURE AND HERITAGE PROGRAMME



The work at Alford Manor House will see a new permanent, flexible event space created to replace the current temporary marquee. The new function room will allow the Manor House to provide event space for up to 100 people. The plans also include works to the car park and construction of a canopy to store large pieces of machinery for the Rural Life Museum and workshop

“When visitors who are new to the area look round the Manor House and the Country Life Museum they often say what great potential this marvellous heritage asset has. With the completion of the work planned under this grant funded initiative that potential will at last be realised.”

Richard Quantrell, Alford Manor House Trustee



Spilsby Sessions House is to be supported to bring the building back into use as a theatre and as a community-owned space. The listed building also has a significant place in history, for its past use as a jail, and funding would allow the building's old police cells to be opened to the public, creating a new visitor attraction.

“ The Spilsby Sessions House charity will now be able to realise the vision of fully repairing the Grade II listed heritage site and transforming a theatre at risk into a visitor attraction and community arts venue for all. The impact of this project will be a huge boost for the local community and for East Lindsey as whole. ”

Bruce Knight, Heritage and Arts Coordinator, Spilsby Sessions House

DELIVERING FOR OUR CONNECTED COAST



Alford Manor House

- Built in 1611
- Largest thatched manor house in the country
- Awarded £2.1M government funding
- Project will deliver:
 - Event space
 - New kitchen
 - Solar energy
 - Machinery store
 - Workshop
 - Ground renovations



Spilsby Sessions House

- Listed building
- Previously used as a jail
- Awarded £4.9M government funding
- Project will deliver:
 - Building Repair
 - Accessibility
 - Meeting Facilities
 - Café and bar
 - Office/workspace
 - Theatre

CULTURE AND HERITAGE PROGRAMME

LOOKING AHEAD

2025 - 2026 looks set to be an exciting year for our projects in Skegness. The Skegness Learning Campus is expected to open its doors and welcome the first students in September 2025. Earlier in 2025, the work on the Embassy Theatre, part of the Cultural Skegness project, will finish, as will the improvements to Skegness Railway Station. We will also see more buildings in the town centre benefitting from refurbishment through the Town Centre Transformation scheme.

Get involved and shape Skegness' future

We will also want to hear from local people in 2025. We will be busy continuing to speak to people, finding out thoughts, and hearing what priorities people have for investment through the new £20M government funding. This is another exciting opportunity for Skegness and we look forward to working with the community to decide how this can be spent over the next year.

In addition, East Lindsey District Council has announced an ambitious £10million fund for investment in the local area. Aimed to be transformative, the fund will prioritise investment in four distinct target areas: community development, promoting the visitor economy, business support and to boost the attractiveness of the area. Visit www.e-lindsey.gov.uk to find out more.

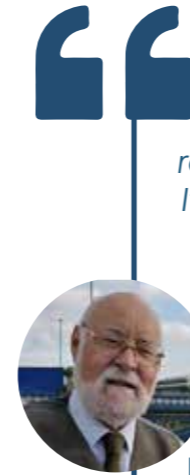


Artist impression: the Skegness Learning Campus is expected to open its doors to students in September 2025

WORKING TOGETHER: CONNECTED COAST BOARD

The Connected Coast Board has been set up to oversee the delivery of the Town Deal projects and the Towns Fund investment in Mablethorpe and Skegness. The Board, which is led by Chair Chris Baron and made up of public and private sector representatives, also takes an overview of other government funded schemes in Mablethorpe and Skegness. This ensures a joined-up approach across all the investment, and across both towns. In this way, the Board can make a difference for this connected coast.

In addition, sub groups have been set up to focus on the investment, projects and potential in both towns. The Mablethorpe sub group is led by Prebendary Adrian Benjamin and the Skegness sub group is led by Paul McCooley.



**Prebendary Adrian Benjamin,
Chair, Mablethorpe
Sub-Group**

Through the Towns Fund, we have the opportunity to realise Mablethorpe's potential. It is fantastic to see the projects now delivering on the ground, such as with the brand new Station Leisure and Learning Centre, which is benefitting local people.



The Board is committed to working together for our Connected Coast. Our membership brings together a breadth of skills, knowledge, and experience, and a shared ambition to bring transformational improvements for our local communities.

Chris Baron, Chair, Connected Coast



The Towns Fund investment and Town Deal projects will bring improvements to benefit the whole community. It is fantastic to see works underway and progressing well across the town. The impact of the work that it is taking place now will be felt for many years to come.

Paul McCooley, Chair, Skegness Sub-Group



WORKING TOGETHER: CONNECTED COAST BOARD

"Delighted to be the NHS representative on the Connected Coast Towns Fund and to see these projects coming to fruition. The range of schemes is really important to support the sustainability and future of Skegness, Mablethorpe and the surrounding areas. These developments and improvements supports those wider determinants of health and wellbeing, including activeness, education, pride of place and community."



The partnership that we have developed here in through the Towns Fund Board between such a diverse range of partners has been a real strength that has created a lot of positive benefits."

Jacqui Bunce, Programme Director – Strategic Partnerships, Planning & Estate, NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board



THE BOARD



CHRIS BARON
Chair of Connected Coast Board



CLAIRE DRAPER
Vice Chair of Connected Coast Board



CLLR CRAIG LEYLAND
Leader, East Lindsey District Council



TRACY STRINGFELLOW
CEO, Heritage Lincolnshire



JULIE CORDEN
University of Lincoln, Director of Regional Engagement (Operations and Business)



EMMA TATLOW
CEO of Active Lincolnshire



ROBERT CAUDWELL
Association Drainage Boards - Chairman



PRANALI PARIKH
Director of Economic Development



VICTORIA ATKINS
MP Louth and Horncastle



RICHARD TICE
MP for Boston and Skegness



CLLR ADRIAN FINDLEY
Mayor of Skegness



PCC MARC JONES
Lincolnshire Police & Crime Commissioner



PAUL MCCOOEY
Director, Duncan & Toplis



JOHN HENRY LOONEY
Sustainable Direction - Director



CLAIRE FOSTER
Boston College - CEO



ROBERT PARKER
Micronclean - Managing Director



FREDDIE CHAMBERS
Lindum Group - Group MD



CLLR CARL TEBBUTT
Mablethorpe Town Council and Deputy Mayor



SANDRA WILLIAMSON
Chief Operating Officer for
Lincolnshire East Locality NHS



JACQUI BUNCE
Programme Director – Strategic
Estates, Partnerships & Planning
- NHS Lincolnshire Integrated
Care Board



CLLR STEVE KIRK
East Lindsey District Council
(Portfolio Holder for Coastal
Economy)



CLLR COLIN DAVIE
Lincolnshire County Council



ANN HARDY
CEO - TEC Partnership



JAMES BRINDLE
Magna Vitae Trust for Leisure &
Culture



DEBORAH HIGTON
Environment Agency - Area
Coastal Manager



TIM ALLEN
Historic England - Development
Advice Team Leader (North)



CHRIS LILLEY
Church of England's Partnership
Dean for East Lindsey



ADRIAN BENJAMIN
Rev'd Prebendary



CAROLINE KILLEAVY
National Trust



JANET STUBBS
British Garden Centres – Owner



STEVE ANDREW
Hildreds Shopping Centre, Centre
Manager



BRAD JOHNSON
Volunteer Communications
Lead – East Coast Pride



STEVE LARNER
Skegness Town Council – Town
Clerk



DAVID BRUCE
Lead Community Connector
First Coastal & Rural PCN



JACQUELINE EVANS
Inspector 255, Coast
Neighbourhood Team



CARL RICHARDSON
The Dunes Complex



GARETH ROWLAND
Retired



NAOMI WILKINSON-BAKER
Director of Operations, Magna Vitae
Trust for Leisure & Culture

The board would like to thank all members, previous and current, for the work completed and their contribution to the Board.

WORKING TOGETHER: A PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

A partnership approach is taken to the delivery of the projects and investment in Skegness and Mablethorpe. The day to day work is led by officers from South East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership who look after every aspect of delivery, from implementation to overseeing the finances to liaising with government.

The delivery team also includes staff in our partner organisations with everyone committed to delivering for a connected coast.



served by One Team

South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership



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UK Government

KEEP CONNECTED

Do you want to keep connected on the progress of the exciting plans for Skegness? Why not give us a follow on social media or send us an email to receive regular updates from Connected Coast.



www.connectedcoast.co.uk



Or get in touch via email Connected.Coast@e-lindsey.gov.uk

If you'd like to receive regular email updates from Connected Coast Town Deal and keep informed on the progress of the projects, please do get in touch: Connected.Coast@e-lindsey.gov.uk

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